

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, EAGR, FR, JA

SUBJECT: OPRED - AGRICULTURE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH RE-
SEARCH UNIT IN JAPAN AND AUGMENT PARASITE LABORATORY IN
FRANCE FOR RESEARCH ON NATURAL ENEMIES OF GYPSY MOTH

1. AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS) IS
REQUESTING A CEILING INCREASE OF FOUR POSITIONS TO STAFF
A TWO-MEMBER UNIT (1 US, 1 FN) IN JAPAN AND A TWO-MEMBER
UNIT (2 FN) IN FRANCE TO CONDUCT FOREIGN EXPLORATIONS
FOR NATURAL ENEMIES OF THE GYPSY MOTH, PORTHETRIA DISPAR.
PARAGRAPHS 2-6 BELOW SUMMARIZE JUSTIFICATION SUPPLIED
BY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

2. GYPSY MOTH IS A PEST OF INCREASING ECONOMIC IMPACT IN
THE UNITED STATES. A SINGLE CATERPILLAR EATS A SQUARE
FOOT OF LEAF SURFACE EVERY 24 HOURS. IN HEAVILY IN-
FESTED AREAS, WHOLE TREES MAY BE STRIPPED OVERNIGHT.
GYPSY MOTH POPULATIONS HAVE INCREASED GREATLY IN THE NORTH-
EAST STATES SINCE 1968. ONE AND THREE-FOURTHS MILLION
ACRES (ABOUT 2,800 SQUARE MILES) WERE DEFOLIATED IN 1973,
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MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THIS SPECTACULAR DEFOLIATION

OCCURRED MAINLY IN THOSE STATES RECENTLY INVADED BY THE GYPSY MOTH (NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA) AND THOSE WITH A LONG HISTORY OF RELATIVELY SMALL OUTBREAKS (CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, MASSACHUSETTS, AND RHODE ISLAND). THUS, BOTH THE GREAT EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF DEFOLIATION IS NEW IN THOSE STATES. A 1973 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE SURVEY INDICATES NEW ESTABLISHED INFESTATIONS IN MICHIGAN, NORTH CAROLINA, OHIO, AND VIRGINIA. EXTENSIVE SPREAD OF INFESTATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES COULD CAUSE ANNUAL LOSSES MEASURED IN MILLIONS OF BOARD FEET OF LUMBER; IN SUBSTANTIAL EROSION OF ROLLING AND MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN; IN REDUCTIONS IN POPULATIONS OF BENEFICIAL WILDLIFE; IN SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES; AND SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURES FOR CONTROL BY HOMEOWNERS. HOPE FOR CONTROL OF GYPSY MOTH RESTS WITH AN INTEGRATED CONTROL SYSTEM INCLUDING NATURAL ENEMIES (PARASITES, PREDATORS, AND NEMATODE AND MICROBIAL PATHOGENS), SEX ATTRACTANTS, SELECTED INSECTICIDES, GROWTH HORMONES, RELEASE OF STERILIZED MALES, AND QUARANTINES. THE USE OF NATURAL ENEMIES, OR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT METHOD OF POTENTIAL CONTROL OF GYPSY MOTH WITH THE LEAST HAZARD TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

3. SINCE 1972, A LIMITED PARASITE IMPORTATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY A SINGLE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGIST AND HIS ASSISTANT LOCATED AT THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS) EUROPEAN PARASITE LABORATORY IN FRANCE, AND ONE ENTOMOLOGIST AT THE ARS BENEFICIAL INSECTS RESEARCH LABORATORY AT NEWARK, DELAWARE. OVER 40,000 PARASITE INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING 40 SPECIES HAVE BEEN IMPORTED, NONE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. THERE HAS LONG BEEN STRONG PRESSURE FROM VARIOUS STATE RESEARCH AND CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN GYPSY MOTH CONTROL FOR EXPANDING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH, BOTH AS TO INTENSITY OF EFFORT AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE, AND PARTICULARLY IN INITIATING RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION IN THE FAR EAST, I.E., JAPAN AND KOREA, WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF GYPSY MOTH PARASITES AND PREDATORS ARE KNOWN TO EXIST. IN 1972, ARS CONTRACTED WITH THE COMMON-

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WEALTH INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL TO DO PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS OF GYPSY MOTH IN JAPAN. THIS CONTRACT RESULTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCH RESEARCH IN JAPAN, AND A LIST OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS FOR POTENTIAL COOPERATION.

4.A. THE PROPOSED PERIOD OF THIS PROJECT IS THREE YEARS, WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR EXTENSIVE STUDIES AND COLLECTIONS

IN EUROPE AND JAPAN. WE HOPE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED BY DECEMBER 1977. STATE AND FEDERAL LABORATORIES IN THE NORTHEAST STATES ARE PREPARING THEIR FACILITIES TO RECEIVE THE INCREASED NATURAL ENEMY MATERIALS TO RESULT FROM THESE EXPANDED STUDIES AND COLLECTIONS OVERSEAS.

B. THESE UNITS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNLESS WORK IS BEGUN BY THE TIME EGGS OF GYPSY MOTH HATCH, AN ENTIRE SEASON'S WORK WILL BE LOST. IN NORTHERN JAPAN, EGGS HATCH IN LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY; THE MAIN FEEDING ACTIVITY OCCURS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE; PUPATION STARTS FROM EARLY JULY ONWARDS; AND EMERGENCE OF MOTHS TAKES PLACE FROM MID-JULY TO LATE AUGUST. THE GYPSY MOTH CYCLE IS VERY MUCH THE SAME IN FRANCE. CONSEQUENTLY, WORK SHOULD BEGIN NO LATER THAN THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL. THIS IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL IN JAPAN.

C. THE ARS UNITS WOULD REPORT TO THE AMBASSADOR THROUGH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND WOULD ADVISE OTHER APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS.

5.A. FOR TOKYO. THE UNIT IN JAPAN WOULD CONSIST OF ONE AMERICAN PROJECT LEADER (AN ENTOMOLOGIST) AND ONE FOREIGN NATIONAL SUBPROFESSIONAL. THE PROJECT LEADER WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A LABORATORY IN AN AREA DETERMINED BY HIM TO BE SUITABLE FOR THE RESEARCH. FROM EXISTING INFORMATION, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LABORATORY WOULD BE LOCATED EITHER NEAR TOKYO OR OSAKA, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS FOR THE RAPID SHIPMENT OF THE PARASITES OR PREDATORS.

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B. WE HOPE TO INITIATE TRAVEL OF THE ENTOMOLOGIST TO JAPAN IN FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO ALLOW NECESSARY SURVEYS AND CONTRACTS TO DETERMINE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MOST SUITABLE RESEARCH LOCATION.

C. WE ANTICIPATE THE ARS UNIT IN JAPAN WOULD REQUIRE MINIMUM ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

CONTRACTS (FOR LEASE OF FACILITIES AND SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OF TWO FIELD WORKERS).

OCCASIONAL PURCHASES OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT BY EMBASSY, IF NOT OBTAINABLE AT RESEARCH SITE OR IF NOT FURNISHED BY USDA.

HIRING AND PAYROLLING OF LOCAL EMPLOYEE.

DESIGNATION OF LOCAL EMPLOYEE AS CLASS A CASHIER AND
PROCESSING OF REPLENISHMENT VOUCHERS.

VOUCHERING OF ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN EMPLOYEE, WHO
WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PAYROLL SERVICES BY USDA'S
NATIONAL FINANCE CENTER IN U.S.

ASSISTANCE WITH ENTRY FORMALITIES.

USE OF EMBASSY'S AND/OR CONSULATE'S COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES, E.G., POUCH; HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD OCCUR
INFREQUENTLY BECAUSE APO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

6.A. FOR PARIS. THE UNIT IN FRANCE WILL BE HEAD-
QUARTERED AT THE EUROPEAN PARASITE LABORATORY, SEVRES,
AND WILL CONSIST OF TWO FOREIGN NATIONALS (ONE PRO-
FESSIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST AND ONE SUBPROFESSIONAL). THE
UNIT IN FRANCE WILL ASSIST IN ONGOING GYPSY MOTH RE-
SEARCH NOW CONDUCTED BY ONE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL.
LIMITED STUDIES AND NATURAL ENEMY COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN
CONDUCTED IN FRANCE AND AUSTRIA AND ARE PLANNED IN
POLAND. THE ADDITION OF THIS TWO-MEMBER UNIT WILL
PROVIDE FOR EXPANSION OF THIS RESEARCH, THE COLLECTIONS,
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AND THEIR GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE, TO POSSIBLY INCLUDE TURKEY
AND IRAN, WHERE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC CONTACTS HAVE
BEEN MADE.

B. LITTLE, IF ANY, ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
WILL BE REQUIRED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED; WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF
THE CHIEFS OF MISSION IN PARIS AND TOKYO ON THIS PRO-
POSAL. KISSINGER

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